Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: LEFTIST APPOINTED VICE GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK

- 1. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON MARCH 4 APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MARIO MURTEIRA, MEMBER OF THE FELLOW TRAVELING MOVIMENTO DEMOCRATICO PORTUGUES (MDP), AS ONE OF THE BANK OF PORTUGAL'S THREE VICE GOVERNORS. (JOAO SALGUEIRO HOLDS ONE OF THE OTHER TWO POSITIONS, AND THE THIRD IS VACANT.)
- 2. MURTEIRA, A WELL-KNOWN PORTUGUESE ECONOMIST, IS AMBITIOUS AND OPPORTUNISTIC. MANY REGARD HIM, RATHER THAN PEREIRA DE MOURA, ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST ECONOMIST, AS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS ON THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MINISTERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT APPEARED IN THE AFJM JOURNAL LAST FALL (LISBON 5069) HE

ORGANIZED THESE ATTACKS, THEY SAY, IN HOPES OF GAINING A MINISTERIAL CHAIR.

3. COMMENT: MURTEIRA'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BANK IS A SIGN THAT HE HAS SUPPORT IN HIGH CIRCLES, PROBABLY INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, WHOM HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS AN ECONOMIC ADVISOR. THE NEW POSITION GIVES HIM A BASE FROM WHICH TO INJECT HIMSELF INTO GOP ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING AND A POST FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE (SPY ON?) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS. HIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISCHIEF MAKING, HOWEVER, WILL BE CIRCUMSCRIBED TO THE EXTENT THAT (A) HIS CHIEF, THE BANK'S GOVERNOR (JACINTO NUNES, A TECHNOCRAT), IS WILLING AND ABLE TO ASSERT HIMSELF, AND (B) BANK VICE-GIVERNOR SALGUEIRO, WHO IS PPD-ORIENTED, CAN OFFSET MURTEIRA'S VIEWS AND ACTIONS. CARLUCCI

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TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PO, (MURTEIRA, MARIO)
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